

**SECRET***Communication  
Int.*

*Register*

1	DD/FBIS	
2	C/E&PS	
3	C/LRB	
	CMO	
4	C/PS	
	C/PROD	
5	C/OPS	
6	C/ADMIN	
	201 FILE	
7	EXEC. REC.	

26 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:  Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

25X1

SUBJECT: FBIS Overseas Communications Network 

25X1

1. FBIS recently issued an RFP for a study on the development of an overseas communications network that would link FBIS bureaus and FBIS Headquarters through leased circuits utilizing INTELSAT satellite systems. The Department of State, while agreeing in principle to the need for the FBIS system, has raised several legal issues that it is felt will impinge on the eventual design and deployment of the proposed system--e.g., the matter of reciprocity if FBIS were to use Embassy property for transmittal of signals to INTELSAT satellites directly rather than through local commercial carriers; the question of whether the FBIS proposal violates U.S. laws and/or policy on dealings with INTELSAT; and the question of whether transmission of television and/or voice signals from foreign countries violates foreign copyright laws.

25X1

2. We request the OGC assign an attorney to look into these matters and represent us in discussions with the Department of State legal office. A background briefing on this can be provided in FBIS either by  Chief, Operations Group, or  Deputy Director, FBIS. The State Department attorney assigned to this matter is Thomas J. Ramsey, Office of the Legal Adviser, (202) 632-3062. Mr. Ramsey has a number of aspects of this situation that he wishes to discuss. We are not convinced that the precedents he has cited to us are truly applicable to FBIS as an Agency component and believe it is necessary that your office take a close look at the questions State is raising.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

DDS&T/FBIS/

(25Feb82)

25X1

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

1 - C/Ops

1 - D/FBIS Chrono

1 - FBIS Registry